

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Thank You Columbus Hope for Haiti raises \$142,591 for Disaster Relief**

The City of Columbus, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and members from across Columbus' Media came together on Thursday for "Columbus Hope for Haiti," a fundraiser to benefit those in Haiti following last week's devastating earthquake. **The total dollars donated by the close the fundraiser was \$142,591.11, with more donations expected today.** The event was held at the Ohio Historical Society off of I-71, at Exit 111 on Thursday, January 21.

**"Columbus shows its spirit of giving in so many ways, and I thank residents, volunteers, donors and all the members of the local media who took the time to help those so in need of hope in Haiti by helping put on Thursday's special event," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman.**

Local TV, Radio, and Print personalities, along with dozens of volunteers, local government officials and the American Red Cross were on hand to accept cash and check donations all day at the Hope for Haiti event. Thousands of attendees stayed warm and dry in their cars to donate at the drive-through event. It is estimated that between 2,200 and 2,400 cars drove through with cash and check donations. TV and Radio station crews broadcast live reports from the all day event. Media companies that supported the event include: WBNS 10TV, NBC 4, ABC 6, FOX 28, WOSU, CD101, Clear Channel Columbus, Clear Channel Outdoor, Columbus Radio Group, 97.1 The Fan, Radio One, North American Broadcasting Company, Wilks Broadcasting, The Columbus Dispatch, alive!, Fronteras, ThisWeek Newspapers, and Business First.

**Michael Carroll, American Red Cross CEO, commented: "Yesterday's *Columbus Hope for Haiti* event was affirming on so many levels. Local citizens, many with their own troubles, came by to give whatever they could while government, the media community and the Red Cross demonstrated how well we work together. Now we'll put the donations to work in Haiti."**

The American Red Cross continues to accept donations:

1. Call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish).
2. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). They can choose to designate their contribution to the International Response Fund or for the Haiti response specifically.
3. Donors can text "Haiti" to 90999 to send a ten dollar donation to the Red Cross. The funds will go to support the Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.